

AGE OF APOCALYPSE

MARVEL #3

NICIEZA
COELLO
CURIÉL



SECRET
WARS

MARVEL

003 VARIANT
EDITION

AGE OF APOCALYPSE



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**SECRET
WARS**

AGE OF APOCALYPSE

THE MULTIVERSE WAS DESTROYED...
NOW, ALL THAT REMAINS...IS BATTLEWORLD!

A MASSIVE, PATCHWORK PLANET COMPOSED OF FRAGMENTS FROM WORLDS THAT NO LONGER EXIST, MAINTAINED BY THE IRON WILL OF ITS GOD AND MASTER, VICTOR VON DOOM. EACH REGION IS A DOMAIN UNTO ITSELF, BUT NONE IS RULED MORE RUTHLESSLY THAN THE REALM OF EN SABAH NUR, APOCALYPSE.



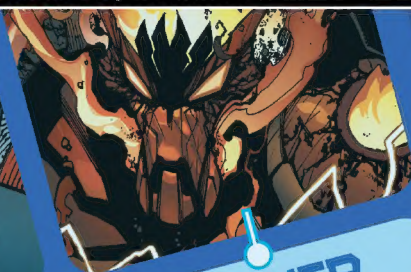
WOLVERINE JAMES "LOGAN" HOWLETT

CAPACITIES: Enhanced senses, agility, strength, and regenerative healing factor; adamantium skeleton and claws.
PROFILE: Former "recruiter" for the biological experiments of Lord Essex. Years ago, Logan betrayed his master when he fell in love with a young recruit named Jean Grey. He failed her, lost his hand while escaping and joined Magneto's X-Men.



ESSEX NATHANIEL ESSEX

CAPACITIES: Telepath, telekinetic, shape-shifting, teleportation; scientific genius.
PROFILE: A human who experimented on fellow humans in the late 1800s, eventually allying himself with Apocalypse. He became physically transformed and secretly served En Sabah Nur for a century by cataloguing and culling the growing tide of mutants.



BURNER REAL NAME UNKNOWN

CAPACITIES: Enhanced agility, strength and speed; able to pyrokinetically charge a target.
PROFILE: An escapee from the bio-labs of Hank McCoy, little is known of the last X-Men recruit. He wears full-body armor, rumored to cover horrific burns over most of his body.

TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE

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THE SECRET LABORATORY OF DR. NEMESIS!

HIDDEN WITHIN THE LABORATORY OF DR. HENRY MCCOY.

ACCESS
AUDIOLOG: DR. JAMES
BRADLEY.

COMMENCING
GENOME INSEMINATION
FROM SUBJECTS B-9,
B-13 AND C-7.

I APOLOGIZE
FOR TALKING *ALoud*,
MY DEAR.

I LIKE TO
RECORD THE DETAILS OF
MY EXPERIMENTATION
FOR POSTERITY.

I HAVE
WORKED *VERY*
HARD SO THAT FUTURE
GENERATIONS WILL
KNOW OF MY
GREATNESS.

YEARS SPENT
TOILING IN THE
SHADOWS OF SELF-
DESCRIBED
GIANTS...

...CULLING
SILK PURSES FROM
THE SOW'S EARS THEY
SO CALLOUSLY
DISCARDED.

HMM. NOT
TO CALL YOU A
SOW'S EAR, MY
DEAR. NO.

I REGRET
WHAT MY...
SUPERVISOR DID
TO YOU YEARS
AGO.



YOU WERE
MAGNIFICENT...
THEY SHOULD NEVER
HAVE BEEN AFRAID
OF YOU.

I'M NOT.
I, FOR ONE,
WOULD LOVE
NOTHING
MORE...



...THAN TO
SEE **JEAN GREY**
RISE LIKE A **PHOENIX**
FROM THE
ASHES!



GRRRRR

CAN YOU
KEEP **WILDCHILD**
UNDER CONTROL,
CREED?



AN'
WHY WOULD I
WANNA DO **THAT**,
DOC?

ME 'N' HIM, WE PLAY
GOOD COP/BAD COP.



GUESS WHICH
ONE OF US IS THE
BAD COP...

HEAR YOU
LIKE IT WHEN THE
FLATSCANS AND MUTIE-
FODDER CALL YOU
DR. NEMESIS, MAKES
YOU SOUND LIKE A
TOUGH GUY.

YOU THINK
YOU'RE **TOUGH**,
DOC?

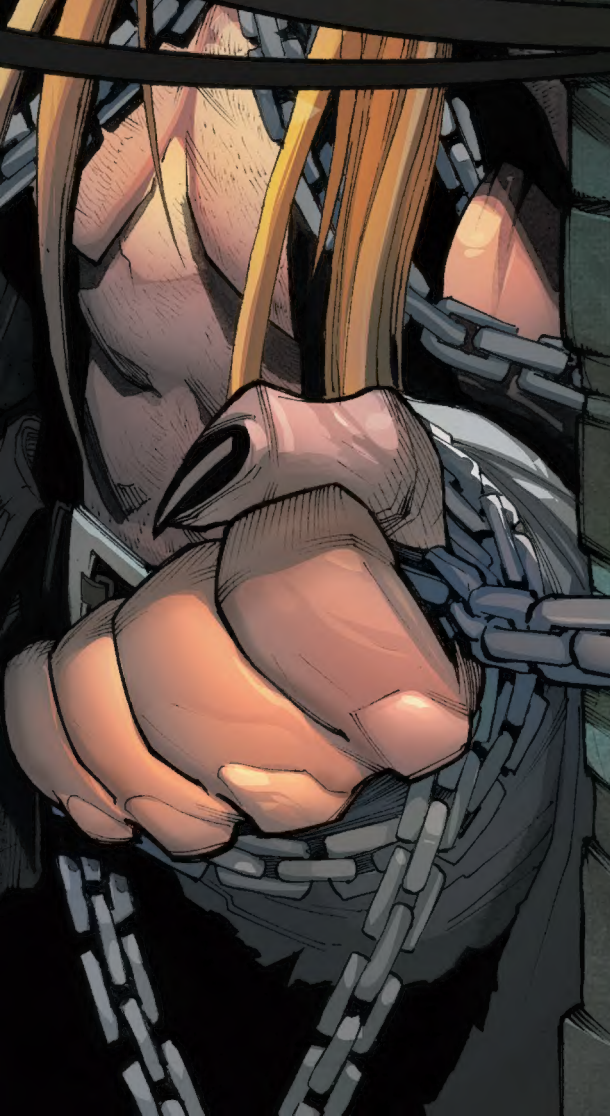


I WOULD BE
VERY INTIMIDATED,
LORD CREED...

...WERE IT NOT
FOR THE FACT THAT
YOU BROUGHT THE
GIRL TO ME.

WAS THAT TO
STOP **DR. MCCOY'S**
PLANS TO BECOME ONE
OF THE **FOUR**
HORSEMEN...

...OR BECAUSE
YOU THINK THE
GIRL MAY HELP YOU
IN SOME **OTHER**
WAY?



PERHAPS
SHE COULD BE
USED IN YOUR
INTERMINABLE
HISSING
MATCH WITH
WOLVERINE.

LOGAN
IS DEAD TO ME. I
WANTED AN INDEPENDENT
INTERROGATION ON WHAT
THE **HUMANS** ARE
PLANNING.

SO WE
COULD SEPARATE
WHAT THIS GIRL
SAYS...

"...FROM WHAT THE *FLATSCAN*
SHERIFF WAS GOING TO TELL *ESSEX*."

NNGG

her ability
to withstand pain
is admirable,
essex.

SON
OF A--

HUMANS
HAVE *SUFFERED*
FOR DECADES.
LORD ABYSS.

IF
THERE IS ONE
THING *SHERIFF*
CAROL DANVERS
UNDERSTANDS,
IT IS PAIN.

MAYHAP, LORD
ESSEX--

--WE SHALL
GLEAN WHAT WE
NEED FROM WHAT
THE LADY *HASN'T*
SAID...?

INDEED,
MCCOY. TELL CREED TO
GATHER AN *INFINITE*
SQUADRON.

TEAR THE
HUMAN GHETTO
APART UNTIL YOU FIND
THE *WEAPON* THEY
ARE HIDING.

FOR EVERY
HUMAN WHO SAYS
THEY ARE HIDING
NOTHING...
...KILL **ONE**
HUNDRED of them
IN TURN.



NO!
PLEASE---

--IT'S NOT
THERE...

...IT'S BURIED
UNDERGROUND...

...IN WHAT'S
LEFT OF THE
BADLANDS...



WHAT SAYS
OUR HUMAN **LIE-**
DETECTOR...?



HER **FIRST**
STATEMENT IS **TRUE**...
BUT HER HEART
SKIPPED...



...SHE'S LYING
ABOUT **WHERE**
THEY BURIED THEIR
WEAPON.

THANK YOU,
MISTER MURDOCK.
YOU WILL RECEIVE EXTRA
RATIONS FOR YOUR
SERVICE.

NOW THEN,
IF THE HUMANS
MEAN TO ATTACK
US...

"...LET'S PROVIDE THEM A FIGHT
THEY WILL NEVER FORGET!"

EIGHT YEARS AGO.

IT'S BEEN *TWO DAYS* SINCE
THE *X-MEN* RESCUED ME (OR
KIDNAPPED ME, DEPENDING
ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW).

THEY'VE WORKED REAL HARD TO
MAKE IT FEEL LIKE A RESCUE. BUT
BEHIND EVERYTHING THEY SAY, I
GET A SENSE OF *DESPERATION*.

AS I WALK OUT OF THE
BUNKER WITH *MAGNETO*, HE
TELLS ME ABOUT ONE OF THE
X-MEN'S GREATEST BATTLES.

WHEN HIS FIRST GROUP OF
STUDENTS FOUGHT THE FIRST
GATHERING OF THE *HORSEMEN*
OF THE *APOCALYPSE*.

STORM, SUNFIRE,
ICEMAN, ANGEL,
BANSHEE AND
MARVEL GIRL--

--AGAINST *APOCALYPSE*,
SEBASTIAN SHAW, NAMOR
AND ESSEX.

MAGNETO STOPS FOR
A SECOND, I SEE THE
SADNESS IN HIS EYES.
"I HAD TAKEN TOO
LONG," HE SAYS.



I HAD
GATHERED MY
STUDENTS ONLY MONTHS
PRIOR, **DOUGLAS**. WE WERE
ILL PREPARED TO FIGHT
THE HORSEMEN...

...MANY
OF WHOM
HAD **DECADES** OF
EXPERIENCE IN USING
THEIR **MUTANT**
POWERS.

THAT'S WHEN MY
POWERS KICK IN:
I CAN **FEEL** LANGUAGE
RATHER THAN JUST
HEAR IT OR READ IT.

MAGNETO LOST
SOMEONE. HE WAS
AFRAID OF BEARING
THAT FRIEND'S LEGACY.

YOU SAID IT
TOOK YOU TOO
LONG...

...TOO
LONG FROM
WHEN...?



"A FRIEND OF MINE WAS
KILLED. A FELLOW MUTANT,
WHOSE **NAME**, UNFORTUNATELY,
MEANS LITTLE TO YOU...

"...BUT THE DEATH OF
CHARLES XAVIER
MEANT **EVERYTHING**.

"HIS **DREAM** HAD BEEN
TO **TEACH** YOUNG
MUTANTS HOW TO USE
THEIR ABILITIES FOR THE
BENEFIT OF MANKIND.

"AND FOR OUR KIND
TO COEXIST IN **PEACE**
WITH HUMANS."

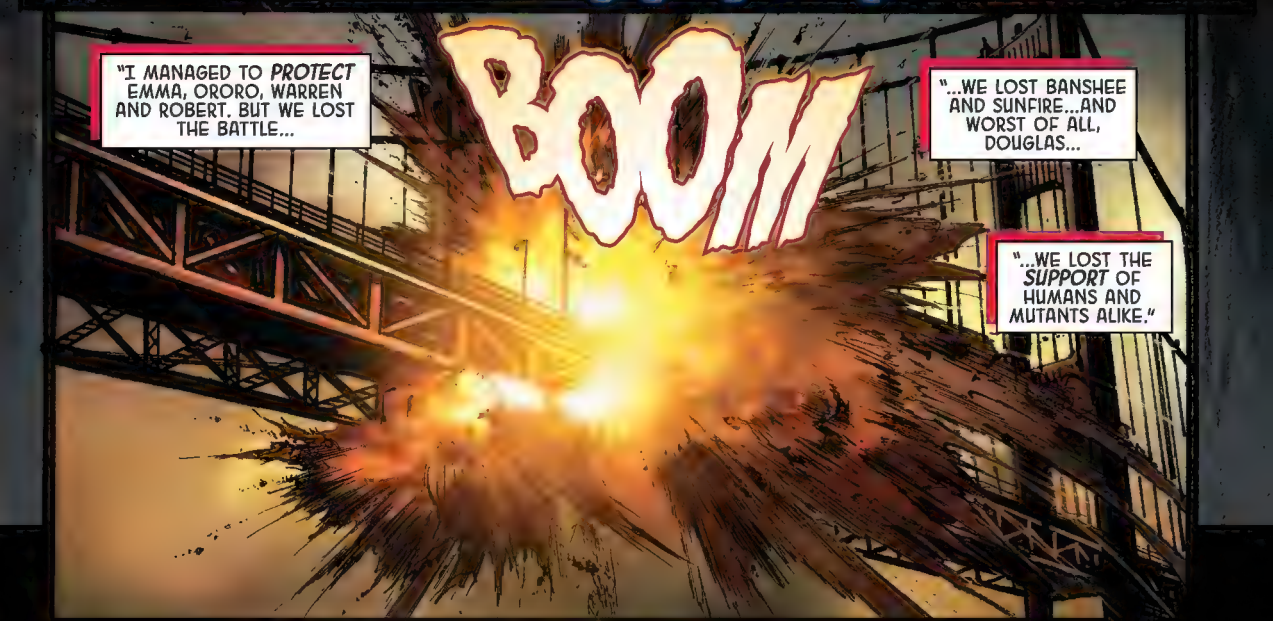


"EDMUND BURKE SAID,
THE ONLY THING NECESSARY
FOR THE TRIUMPH OF
EVIL IS FOR GOOD MEN
TO DO NOTHING."



ERIK--SHAW
CAN'T CONTROL
THE KINETIC CHARGE
FROM YOUR POWERS!
HE'S GOING
TO--

"I DID NOTHING
FOR TOO LONG AFTER
CHARLES DIED."



"I MANAGED TO PROTECT
EMMA, ORORO, WARREN
AND ROBERT. BUT WE LOST
THE BATTLE..."

"...WE LOST BANSHEE
AND SUNFIRE...AND
WORST OF ALL,
DOUGLAS..."

"...WE LOST THE
SUPPORT OF
HUMANS AND
MUTANTS ALIKE."



MUTANTS SAW US
X-MEN AS A **THREAT** TO
THEIR DOMINATION...

...AND HUMANS
SAW US AS NO
DIFFERENT THAN
APOCALYPSE.



I
WAITED TOO
LONG.

WHAT HE
MEANS: "IT WAS
MY FAULT CHARLES
DIED."

BUT WHAT
DOES THAT
REALLY MEAN...?



SHIFF
SHIFF
SHIFF

GET
BEHIND
ME!



SUPPLIES'RE
GETTIN' LOW.

DON'T KNOW WHAT
SMELLS WORSE IN
THIS RAIN, THE DEER
CARCASS OR A WET
WOLVERINE.

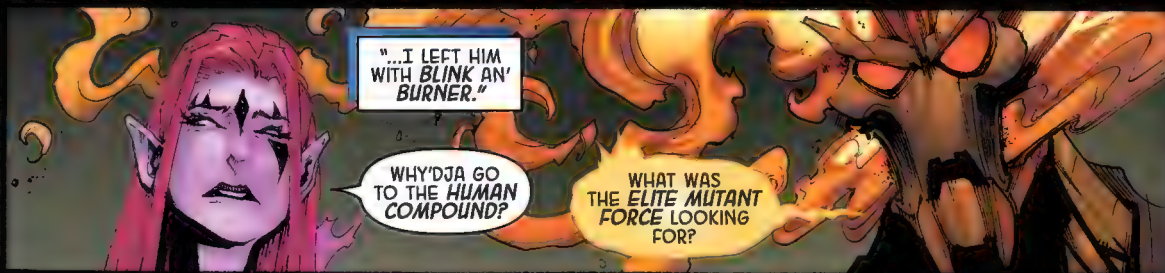


HAS
CYCLOPS TALKED
YET?

IT'S
BEIN' WORKED
ON.

WAIT--ARE
YOU TORTURING
HIM?

WORSE
THAN YOU
COULD IMAGINE,
KID...



"...I LEFT HIM
WITH **BLINK AN'
BURNER.**"

WHY'DJA GO
TO THE **HUMAN
COMPOUND?**

WHAT WAS
THE **ELITE MUTANT
FORCE** LOOKING
FOR?



I DON'T THINK
YOU'RE A BAD GUY,
SUMMERS.

AND I
KNOW YOU
ARE.

I
SURVIVED THE
**DARK BEAST'S
LABS.** I STARED
TOTAL EVIL IN
THE EYE--

--AND I
CHOSE TO WALK
AWAY.



BUT YOU
CHOSE TO
STAY.

SLIKT



SO THE
ONLY CHOICE YOU
GET NOW IS TALK
OR...

...BURN.



ISN'T
MY **BLOOD**
SUPPOSED
TO BE **BOILING**
RIGHT ABOUT
NOW...?

THAT WAS
WEIRD.

YOUR POWERS
ON THE **FRTZ** OR
SOMETHIN'?

I
DON'T THINK
SO...



THE X-MEN LIVE IN A HOLE IN THE GROUND. BARELY ANY FOOD OR POWER.

THEY HAVE NOTHING LEFT.



BUT THEY STILL CLING DESPERATELY TO THEIR IDEALS.

HE WON'T TALK, BOSS.



PRELATE SUMMERS.

BY SAYING NOTHING, YOU ARE CONDEMNING BOTH THE HUMANS AND YOUR OWN KIND.



ERIK!

WHAT IS IT, ROGUE?

SOMETHIN'S WRONG WITH YOUR WIFE!

WHAT?!



EMMA!

HER MIND-- THEY'RE HURTING HER--AGAIN--

WHO--?

THE GIRL--THE ONE WHO WAS BUTCHERED-- YEARS AGO...



"...JEAN GREY!"

PLEASE...
STOP...

...PLEASE...
I CAN'T—I CAN'T
CONTROL IT...

NNGG--

--MMRR--

--I SEE--

--I SEE
EVERYTHING!



I SEE
EVERYTHING!

I CAN SEE
IN HER MIND--THE
THINGS JEAN GREY
OVERHEARD AT
WARREN'S
CLUB.

SOMEONE--
THEIR IMAGE IS
BLOCKED--THEY'RE
BRAGGING--ABOUT HOW
IT WORKED ON
SUGAR MAN--

--HE WAS BEING
EXPERIMENTED
ON--SCREAMING--
DYING--

--HE SAID
"IT WORKED." HE
SAID IT WORKED AND HE
WOULD OFFER IT TO THE
HUMANS--AND THEY...THE
HUMANS TOOK IT
FROM HIM!

THE HUMANS
ARE HIDING A VIRUS
THAT CAN KILL ALL
MUTANTS!

LATER

THE COUNCIL CHAMBER OF
THE FOUR HORSEMEN.

HAVE
YOU UNCOVERED
THE SOURCE OF THAT
TELEPATHIC BURST,
DR. MCCOY?

THE ONLY
FREE-RANGE TELEPATH
POWERFUL ENOUGH TO
PIERCE ALL OF OUR MINDS
IN SUCH A PANICKED
STATE IS **EMMA
FROST**.

I THINK
WHATEVER SHE
SAW--IT WAS A
WARNING.

THE
FLATSCANS HAVE
THE MEANS TO
DESTROY US.

HOW'D THEY
GET A **BIOLOGICAL
WEAPON**...

...WHEN THE
ONLY TWO PEOPLE
THAT COULDA MAKE
IT ARE IN **THIS
ROOM?**

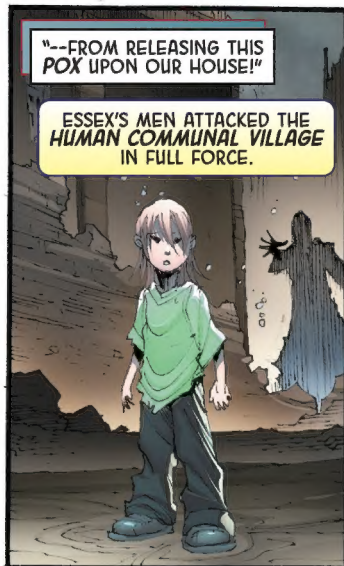
SINCE YOU
REFER TO MYSELF
AND **LORD ESSEX**, I
CAN ASSUME YOU ARE
NOT ACCUSING
HIM...

...AND I CAN
ASSURE YOU THAT
EVERYTHING DONE IN
MY LAB HAS ALWAYS BEEN
AN OPEN BOOK TO
ALL OF YOU!

MCCOY IS
TOO **UNCTUOUS**
IN HIS QUEST FOR A
SEAT ON THIS COUNCIL
TO TRY TO BETRAY
US, **VICTOR**.

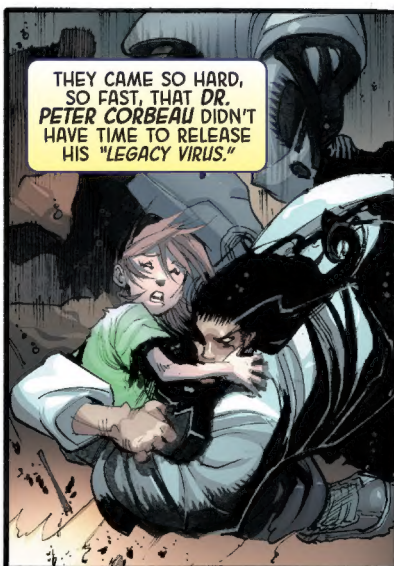
HOW
THE HUMANS
OBTAINED THIS VIRUS
IS A MATTER FOR A
LATER DATE.

RIGHT NOW,
WE MUST PREVENT
THEM--

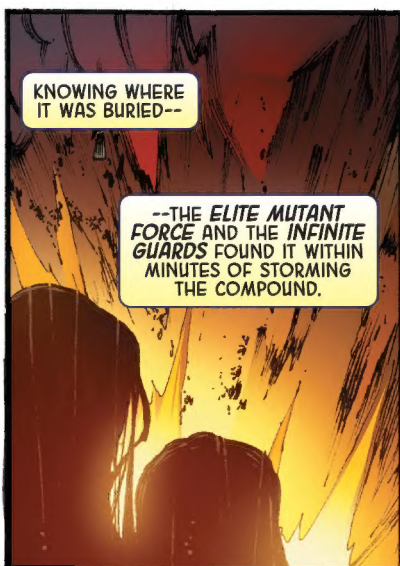


"--FROM RELEASING THIS
POX UPON OUR HOUSE!"

ESSEX'S MEN ATTACKED THE
HUMAN COMMUNAL VILLAGE
IN FULL FORCE.



THEY CAME SO HARD,
SO FAST, THAT DR.
PETER CORBEAU DIDN'T
HAVE TIME TO RELEASE
HIS "LEGACY VIRUS."



KNOWING WHERE
IT WAS BURIED--

--THE ELITE MUTANT
FORCE AND THE INFINITE
GUARDS FOUND IT WITHIN
MINUTES OF STORMING
THE COMPOUND.



THEN WHO
WILL CLEAN YOUR NICE
PENTHOUSE APARTMENT,
CANNONBALL?

NO, BETTER
WE STUDY THIS
CANISTER AND
LEARN WHO
MADE--



YOU'RE NOT
TOUCHIN' THAT
THING, BEAST!

SKI-POW

FORM A
PERIMETER AROUND
THAT CONTAINER
BEFORE--

EVERYONE IS
FLUNG BACK BY
A SUDDEN WALL OF
PURE FORCE.

THE *MADMAN*
HAS PROCLAIMED
HIS ARRIVAL.

WHAT MAGNETO
HAS *FEARED*
FOR YEARS--

--THE OPPORTUNITY
FOR APOCALYPSE TO
DISPLAY AN ULTIMATE
ACT OF *POWER*--

--AND AN ULTIMATE
ACT OF *INSANITY*,
ARRIVES WITH HIM.



AND THAT'S
WHEN I SEE THE
TRUTH.



YOU--
CAN'T DO
THIS...



WHEN I REALIZE
THAT EN SABAH
NUR **WANTED**
THE VIRUS...



...IN ORDER
TO REVEAL
HIS TRUE
INTENTIONS!

AFTER
ALL THIS
TIME...



...LET US
SEE WHO IS FIT
TO SURVIVE!

NEXT:

THE LEGACY VIRUS HAS BEEN UNLEASHED!
WHO LIVES? WHO DIES?
AND WHO CREATED THE VIRUS TO BEGIN WITH?